

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 2, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, City Management Intern Kevin Smith, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Dick Card, 2007 16th Avenue, stated the street crews did an admiral job of removing snow. He expressed concern about people not adhering to snow removal policies and wondered if an ad hoc committee could be formed to enforce snow removal policies. Card stated that there is a repeat offender in his neighborhood. Mayor Lee asked for clarification on the violations of snow removal. Card stated there are part-time snow jockeys who plow or blow snow into the street. Chief Potthoff stated that if the officers find someone throwing snow into the street they talk with them and explain the policy. Potthoff stated that 51 tickets were issued on Sunday for vehicles parked incorrectly. More tickets could have been issued but officers were having difficulty navigating the streets. Potthoff stated that if a neighbor is willing to go on record with the violation, a ticket can be issued later. Otherwise the officers need to catch the offender in the act of throwing snow into the street.

Rod Kleckler stated that it is ironic that at the last meeting, Martin Luther King's Birthday, his civil rights were violated when he was not given an opportunity to speak at an open meeting. Mayor Lee committed a misdemeanor of the Open Meetings Act by not letting him speak. He urged Mayor Lee to resign his position and have Vice-Mayor Joe Martin take over the office.

Larry Woosley wanted to discuss the landlord thing that he should not talk about. Landlords are trying to give input on a situation that affects them. Three years ago the City started billing for sewer/garbage and landlords did not want this to happen. Two years ago, landlords started receiving overdue sewer bills. Woosley wants to talk about it now to avoid future problems.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of January 19, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$835,600.01
- C) Plan Commission Minutes

1) November 20, 2014

2) December 18, 2014

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee asked Chief Potthoff to introduce two new Police officers. Chief Potthoff introduced Clay Hadley, a Sterling native. He graduated from Police Training Institute and was released from field training program on December 26, 2014.

Chief Potthoff introduced Joseph Angarone, from Chicago/Algonquin area. He completed Police Training Institute in December 2014 and is doing well in his field training program. Angarone comes from a law enforcement family, as his father retired from Chicago Police Department.

Mayor Lee recognized Jacob Gale and John Gerhrke with the Building Trade Students for their volunteering with snow shoveling. They are positive examples. Mayor Lee presented certificates to both individuals.

City Planner Dustin Wolff reminded Council members that we are updating the City Code and bringing it to them in pieces. The Plan Commission has solicited public involvement. Design guidelines were added to the code several years ago and we are now building on them. Guidelines dictate how land is developed for non-residential properties and multi-family residential. The design guidelines contain a lot of details but make it clear what is expected. Site developments include relationship to surrounding developments, parking interaction with surroundings, vehicle connection to adjacent property, pedestrian access, traffic circulation, and building materials.

Mayor Lee asked what the red lettering symbolized in the draft. Planner Wolff explained black lettering is original code, blue is proposed and red indicates change after the first draft.

Wolff stated that Downtown Design Guidelines differ because of the history in the downtown. Multi-story buildings are encouraged. Sterling Main Street is on board with these guidelines. Multi-family units should integrate into the neighborhood. Landscaping compliments a development. Recommended plantings are listed.

Mayor Lee remarked that large developers are accustomed to these guidelines but not all developers are familiar with these guidelines. These guidelines lay out the City's expectations. Lee asked about stormwater detention. Wolff explained that the guidelines reference the stormwater code section, but do not deal with it.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2015-02-02 Amending Article III, Section 94 of the City Code Pertaining to Water Wells**; seconded by

Alderman Sotelo. Manager Shumard explained the ordinance was submitted by Dan Hawkins to replace the previous ordinance for ground water around Taco Bell (405 Locust). IEPA was concerned that the previous ordinance overwrote the existing ordinance instead of adding more property. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept the low bid of WIPFLI to provide audit services for fiscal years ending 2015 - 2018; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Director Von Holten stated that bids were lower than the bids submitted in 2011. Alderman Stauter was surprised and delighted with the bids. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept all bids as presented for the 2015 MFT General Maintenance Materials; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to award the Structural Slab Demolition at Northwestern Steel & Wire Plant 1 to Burke Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$118,633.95; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Manager Shumard stated money for this work is through the Mud to Parks Grant to prepare the riverfront for a cap to be placed on the site. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R21015-02-01 Authorizing the sale of surplus City equipment, portable radios and related equipment**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Chief Cook stated that all firefighters have a radio with a couple extras. The radios are 15 to 20 years old but still serviceable. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard thanked Public Works crews for their long hours clearing the 15" of snow which happened four years to the date of a storm that left 12" behind.

Alderman Stauter reminded citizens to dig out their fire hydrants.

Mayor Lee echoed Manager Shumard's sentiments on the fine work of Public Works.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Marie Rombouts, City Clerk